

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--.

Page 24, replace the paragraph, beginning on line 13, as follows:

--The information from the operator is then transmitted, for example by a wire link 2 and/or a radio link 12, to a data processing server 3 which makes it possible to process this information and which, after this processing, presents the user with one or more technical solutions to be applied so that his welding process is modified effectively, that is to say presents him with one or more items of corrective information, modifications or adjustments to be made to one or more configuration parameters of said heat treatment process so as to try to solve the technical problem encountered.--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claim 1 as follows:

--1. (amended) A welding assistance method for a user to exploit information available at a remote computer welding database in a contemplated welding operation, comprising the steps of:

the user supplying an information request to the database, the information request comprising

(a) a first indication and/or selection by the user of a type of contemplated heat treatment process,

(b) a second indication and/or selection by the user of at least one type of technical problem to be solved arising or